

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: LATEST WIRE SERVICE STORIES

1. THERE FOLLOW TWO LATEST WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON THIS
SUBJECT:

2. "BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP)--AN ERITREAN GUERRILLA LEADER
SAID TODAY THAT TWO AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS
HELD PRISONER FOR A MONTH BY SECESSIONIST REBELS IN
ETHIOPIA WOULD BE SET FREE WITHOUT RANSOM WITHIN THE NEXT
TWO WEEKS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY OSMAN SABB, HEAD
OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT'S POPULAR LIBERATION
FORCES, ONE OF TWO MAJOR FACTIONS WAGING A 14-YEAR-OLD
REBELLION FOR INDEPENDENCE IN ETHIOPIA'S RED SEA PROVINCE
OF ERITREA. STEVE CAMPBELL OF SAN LEANDRO, CALIF., AND
JIM HARRELL OF MILWAUKEE, WIS., WERE KIDNAPPED JULY 14 IN
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THE ERITREAN CAPITAL OF ASMARA BY GUERRILLAS OF THE OTHER

ELF FACTION, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. BOTH ARE ASSIGNED BY THE U.S.-BASED COLLINS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CO. TO A U.S. MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT ASMARA. SABBI SAID LAST WEEK HE WAS EXERTING PRESSURE ON THE ELF-RC TO RELEASE THE TWO AMERICAN "BECAUSE KIDNAPPING OF FOREIGNERS SERVES ONLY TO DEFAME THE ERITREAN REBELLION." HE MADE THE STATEMENT IN AN INTERVIEW BEFORE APPEARING BEFORE A NEWS CONFERENCE WITH THE LEADER OF THE OTHER REBEL FACTION TO ANNOUNCE A MERGER OF THE TWO GROUPS. ALTHOUGH THE ELF-RC FACTION MADE NO PUBLIC DEMANDS TO FREE THE TECHNICIANS, ERITREAN SOURCES IN BEIRUT SAID A \$5 MILLION RANSOM WAS ORIGINALLY SOUGHT. 08-14-75 09:25"

3. "BEIRUT, AUG 14, REUTER-TWO AMERICANS KIDNAPPED A MONTH AGO BY ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS ARE BEING TAKEN CLOSE TO THE SUDANESE BORDER TO MAKE THEIR HANDOVER EASIER, A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (ELF) SAID TODAY. THE TWO CIVILIANS, STEPHEN CAMPBELL AND JAMES HARRELL, WHO WERE WORKING AT A U.S. NAVY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NEAR ASMARA, NORTHERN ETHIOPIA, WERE ABDUCTED JULY 14. MR. ALZEIN YASSIN, THE ELF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S FOREIGN RELATIONS SPOKESMAN SAID THE TWO MEN "ARE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM NEAR ASMARA TO PLACES NEARER THE BORDER TO FACILITATE THEIR HANDOVER." HE DID NOT SAY WHEN OR TO WHOM THE AMERICANS WOULD BE RELEASED. MR. YASSIN TOLD REUTERS AFTER A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY CONTACT WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS ABOUT THE TWO MEN. HE SAID: "THEY ARE IN FINE CONDITION." HE SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY PROCEEDINGS BEING TAKEN AGAINST THEM AS THERE WAS NO CRIME INVOLVED. THE TWO MEN WERE EMPLOYED AT THE ASMARA FACILITY BY A TEXAS-BASED COMPANY UNDER CONTRACT TO THE U.S. NAVY. REUTER 0653". SISCO

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